

BEST COPY

AVAILABLE

M. 25233

USIP 12

The Under Secretary

THROUGH 2/8

FROM: E - Robert Y. Prochac

SUBJECT: Department's Attitude on Expansion of International Broadcasting Facilities

Problem

The receipt of the USA's proposed 1958 budget submission has raised again the need for establishing the Department's position on (a) the importance of reaching certain target areas by international broadcasting stations under US sponsorship and (b) the provision of adequate installation to support those areas.

Discussion

1. Background

For some time a basic question regarding the desirability of expanding the international broadcasting facilities under US sponsorship has been pending and under study as a result of NSC and OCB deliberations. A section of the USA's 1958 budget submission entitled "Acquisition and Construction of Radio Facilities", recently received for Department comment, raises the question both generally in terms of the USA program objectives and specifically in terms of a proposed installation in Greece. This document provides only for the installation of one 500 KW medium wave transmitter to be located in the Greek area, presumably on the Island of Rhodes. The purpose of this installation is to increase day and night medium wave coverage in the Balkans and Middle East and North African area and to replace the U.S.S. Courier. The interested areas of the Department do not believe that the construction of the facility mentioned is sufficient in strength or in versatility to cover present and anticipated target areas or cope with the changing political scene.

2. Medium Wave

The proposed medium wave installation in the Greek area will vastly increase the USA receiver and population coverage over that now being provided by the U.S.S. Courier. The present coverage of the Courier, however, is limited due to low power and non-directivity of the antenna.

Two VOA medium wave transmitters broadcasting to the Balkans from Colombia with 50 KW is of questionable effectiveness. As shown in the following tabulation, the proposed installation while greatly improving the situation does not provide for the optimum coverage that use of presently available warehoused equipment (1 MW) would afford. (See Tabs A and C.) As long as the present political climate exists, the US would be ill advised to use less than the maximum power feasible - 1 megawatt.

	MI		KING	
	Number of Transmitters	Population	Number of Transmitters	Population
Courier MW	512,000	7,500,000	1,102,000	29,170,000
Land-based 500 Kilowatt MW Station .	1,135,000	29,400,000	3,052,000	107,700,000
Land-based 1000 Kilowatt MW Station .	1,700,000	35,000,000	3,400,000	127,000,000

In case of properly oriented directional antennas, a megawatt transmitter in addition to extending the Middle East and African coverage would provide a high degree of penetration in the Balkans which is inadequately serviced by medium wave and to the Uralians and the Caucasus which have no VOA medium wave service at this time (Tabs A and C).

3. Short Wave

As indicated on Tab B, the compasses of all VOA short wave broadcasts from Europe, extended to the 3-1/2 MW contour (the minimum acceptable in face of jamming) does not now reach Moscow. The installation of 2 - 500 KW short wave transmitters at Engler presently under construction would extend this contour; however, as clearly pointed out in Chart B, a vast and significant political and industrial area of the Soviet Union and Central Asia is not now covered with what is considered to be an acceptable service. Additionally, the present location of VOA installations does not afford the opportunity to take maximum advantage of the day-night transition period when skywave jamming of short wave broadcasts is ineffective. Therefore, in addition to the medium wave equipment discussed above, installation of short wave equipment, which is not contemplated in VOA's budget, would also be necessary to achieve the desired results.

L. During the past three years some of the American or American-sponsored broadcasters have significantly increased their capability while on the other hand the Soviet jamming capability has increased. If disturbances leading to a possible diminution or cessation of jamming are contemplated now or in the next year or so, it would be

preferable

M 2 5233

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 3 -

preferable to have installations of the suggested nature under construction in order that the United States could talk from a position of expanding strength. Your attention is invited to the fact that the installation of medium and short wave transmitters of the size in question requires from 24 - 36 months.

5. Your attention is invited to the fact that of the three remaining surplus one megawatt short wave transmitters, one has been earmarked for WFS's use at Lisbon and one for Radio Liberation's use at Barcelona.

The following recommendations, if implemented, would provide diversified facilities not necessarily built to service one target, but available for a multiplicity of uses in any political eventuality in Europe, half of Asia and all of Africa where problems of greater magnitude may be anticipated.

Recommendations:

That the Department's policy toward expansion of these facilities, for purposes of guidance to other agencies, be defined as follows:

- A. The Department believes every effort should be made to reach audiences in these particularly important target areas:
 1. Soviet Central Asia,
 2. Near East audiences subject to Radio Cairo, and
 3. Central and South Africa.
- B. The Department should encourage the USIA and, as appropriate, other radio broadcasting organizations to build adequate facilities to reach these target areas. Accordingly, it appears highly desirable that USIA construct both medium and short wave power installations in the Greek area with directional antennas which would be oriented at the Balkans, the geographical center of the USSR, Damascus, the Middle East and Africa.
- C. The Department should encourage the USIA to turn over to the Greeks the 7.5 50 KW Balkania station upon completion of the 100 KW medium wave project. This would be an unnecessary facility if the proposed medium wave transmitter were constructed and could prove to be useful bargaining material with the Greeks.

Dispositions:

IN CHARGE: USA/P - R. Prothro
 IE - H.P. Lowmick
 O/D - A. Richards
 E - Max Hall

P
 U/GP
 TEG

Approved: _____
 Disapproved: _____

For the Director:
 [Signature]